(b) The work sanctioned on 3200 RKM is likely to be completed by December, 2007.

(c) The work on 3200 RKM has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 267.93 crores. The system uses Global System of Mobile Communication for Railways GSM-(R) technology which has been standardized by International Union of Railways (UIC).

(d) and (e) The GSM-(R) based systems have been installed and are working on various foreign railways i.e. in Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, France, United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, China, etc. .

Plantation of Jatropha on Railways' arid land

2390. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways is using its arid land (18,000 hectares) for the plantation of Jatropha;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Railways is also using bio-diesel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways have been undertaking plantation including Jatropha on its land with a view to improve environment as well as protecting its land from encroachment. However, no separate railway land has been earmarked for undertaking plantation of Jatropha. So far, over one hundred lakh Jatropha trees have been planted.

(c) and (d) Railways is using bio-diesel in limited way as availability at economical price is a constraint.

Doubling of tracks in Southern Railway

2391. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the length of doubling of track works completed in Southern Railway during 2005-06;